and Electronics mainly from System Laboratories, like Gas Turbine Research Establishment (44 resignations), Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (9.1 resignations), Research Centre Imarat (50 resignations), Advanced Systems Laboratory (41 resignations), Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (46 resignations), Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (31 resignations), Armament Research and Development Establishment (18 resignations) in the last three years.

(c) Scientists who had resigned have indicated personal/domestic ground as the reason for leaving DRDO. However, it is assumed that increased opportunities available in private sector industries is the major reason for such exodus.

(d) A proposal to give incentives to the scientists has been given to the Sixth Central Pay Commission by DRDO for retaining the talent.

Revival of National l-D Card project

3715. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revive the National l-D Card project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the job has been entrusted to certain agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the time-frame within which the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) The Government of India proposes to issue Multi-purpose National Identity (smart) Card (MNIC) to the citizens of the country. The project envisages providing unique National Identity Number (NIN) to each person in the National Population Register. However, keeping in view the complexities involved both of the processes and technology, a pilot project has been under implementation on an experimental basis covering a population of 30.95 lakhs in the selected

areas in 12 States and one Union Territory. Identity (smart)'cards will be issued to the citizens of age 18 years and above under the pilot project.

(c) and (d) The work of production and distribution of identity card has been awarded to Government Companies. As per the revised time line given by them, the distribution of identity card will be completed by July, 2007.

Utilisation of funds for rehabilitation of Gujarat riot victims

3716. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government has not utilised the funds allotted for the relief and rehabilitation of 2002 Gujarat riot victims and returned the unutilised part of the sanctioned fund;

(b) if so, the funds allotted since then; the funds utilised and unused funds returned so far;

(c) whether the Union Government has made an enquiry as to why the funds were not utilised fully; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has decided to sanction Rs. 105 crore compensation and rehabilitation package for the Gujarat riot victims; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken to see that the assistance reaches the needy and it is properly utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 155.61 crores was released to the Government of Gujarat by various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government under the special relief and economic rehabilitation package announced in Lok Sabha by the Prime Minister on 30.4.2002 for the 2002 Gujarat riot victims, out of which an amount of Rs. 136.51 crores has been spent. The remaining amount of Rs. 19.10 crore was not utilised by the State Government on the ground that no case for relief and rehabilitation is pending. The unutilised amount was returned to the Government of India as per observations of the concerned Ministry based on audit.